

## SECTION III - GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

### Pastureland

#### Planning Resource Management Systems (RMS)

Successful resource management on pastureland is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total pastureland ecosystem--the soil, water, air, plant, and animal (SWAPA+H) resources--and the objectives of the land user. The land user's objective must be consistent with the potential production capabilities of the resources.

The minimum criteria that must be met on pastureland for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III Quality Criteria of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

In planning a RMS for pastureland, vegetation management or grazing management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Prescribed grazing and irrigation water management are ESSENTIAL for proper vegetation management. Pest/Nutrient management is also ESSENTIAL if pesticides and/or nutrients are being applied. A plan of how the animals (domestic and wild) are used to manipulate and be balanced with the plant community to meet the needs of the SWAPA+H resources is the basis of a RMS. Water for animals of concern must be provided, thus making water facilities ESSENTIAL for a pastureland RMS.

All other practices planned on pastureland are to both facilitate the application of the vegetative management practices and are identified as FACILITATIVE practices, or are ADDITIONAL to cause or accelerate changes in the pastureland ecosystem and are identified as ADDITIONAL practices. These practices are planned when necessary to treat specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the SWAPA+H resources.

Resource Management Systems include a combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL: These vegetative management practices are necessary to successful management of pastureland and are generally planned in the RMS.
2. FACILITATIVE: These practices enhance the vegetative management of the pastureland.
3. ADDITIONAL: These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the pastureland ecosystem that cannot be achieved through application of vegetative management and facilitating practices. These practices become ESSENTIAL when conditions make their application necessary to achieve the quality criteria for the resource, and the landowner's objective.

A RMS on pastureland is developed with the landowner through the planning process. A RMS generally includes the ESSENTIAL practices plus the combination of FACILITATIVE and/or ADDITIONAL practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (SWAPA+H). When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and the effects of each practice must be considered in the selection, application, and design of the practice to ensure compatibility.

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The following list of conservation practices is divided into ESSENTIAL, FACILITATIVE, and ADDITIONAL categories. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. See FOTG Section IV for a complete list of practices and individual practice standards for applicable land uses.

##### ESSENTIAL

Water Facilities<sup>1</sup>  
Prescribed Grazing  
Pest/Nutrient Management<sup>2</sup>  
Irrigation Water Management<sup>3</sup>

##### FACILITATIVE

Fencing  
Water Facilities<sup>4</sup>  
Prescribed Burning  
Tree/Shrub Establishment  
Riparian/Herbaceous Forest Buffer

##### ADDITIONAL

Fencing  
Use Exclusion  
Water Spreading  
Irrigation System<sup>5</sup>  
Toxic Salt Reduction  
Critical Area Treatment  
Pest/Nutrient Management  
Erosion Control Structures  
Pasture and Hayland Planting  
Upland and/or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

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<sup>1</sup> Water needed for drinking water for livestock and/or wildlife

<sup>2</sup> If pesticides and/or nutrients are being used

<sup>3</sup> If land is irrigated

<sup>4</sup> Additional water may be needed to facilitate grazing management

<sup>5</sup> If land is irrigated

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#### **Planning Resource Management Systems (RMS)**

The following Guide Sheets give examples of a RMS on pastureland. Resource settings and problems are described and combinations of practices outlined to develop a RMS to meet the cooperators objectives and the quality criteria for the resource problems identified.

The Guide Sheets are to be used as guides only to help understand the thought process used during the planning process and to assess the effects of conservation practices on the considerations and problems associated with the five resources.